



School-Home Connection • Lesson 8

Make going to the library
a weekly treat.

Your child is reading “The Great Ball Game” retold by Joseph Bruchac and “The Bat” by Douglas Florian. This tale and poem describe the characteristics of the flying mammals called bats.

Words to Know

ago	fair	clear
accept	though	half

Reading Sentences Ask your child to read each sentence aloud to you and to use other words to tell what the sentence means.

- Speak in a **clear** voice.
- Children long **ago** had no TV.
- I ate **half** of the cookie.
- Rules make a game **fair**.
- The team will **accept** a new player.
- Bats have wings even **though** they are not birds.



Read Together



Encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes outside of class each day. Look for these books at your local library.

- **Desert Song** by Tony Johnston. Gibbs Smith, 2000.
- **Bat Jamboree** by Kathi Appelt. HarperTrophy, 1998.
- **Bats (World of Mammals)** by June Preszler. Bridgestone, 2006.

Everyday Writing

Start a Story Ask your child to write the beginning of a tale about talking animals, like Bat and the other characters in “The Great Ball Game.” Have your child read aloud the beginning sentences to you.

Together, come up with different answers to these questions: What might happen next? What might happen at the end?

A long time ago the animals
had a big party in the woods.
They forgot to invite the
mosquitoes. When the
mosquitoes found out, they
were mad!

Let's Talk About...

Mammals and Birds Use these discussion starters with your child to discuss “The Great Ball Game.”

- Your child read a tale about a ball game between mammals and birds. Discuss some differences between mammals and birds.
- Ask your child if he or she is interested in learning about bats. Ask why or why not.
- Ask your child what mammals we might see outside. What kinds of birds can we often see?